

TRAINING ELIMINATES WASTE, BOOSTS BUSINESS RESULTS

ABOUT FIBERGLASS FABRICATORS, INC. Founded in 1954, Fiberglass Fabricators, Inc. (FFI) has served the water and wastewater industries with thousands of product installations in a wide array of applications. With 20 employees specializing in weirs, baffles, troughs, launder, and tank covers, as well as custom products, FFI has the experience and know-how to tackle a broad range of composites projects. As fiberglass is required more often in corrosive environments across multiple industries, the Smithfield, Rhode Island-based company continuously seeks to be the first choice of end users, contractors and engineers.

THE CHALLENGE. FFI recognized a need to cut waste from its processes. The composites industry was becoming increasingly competitive, and companies in the southern United States had drastically lower overhead. The company had begun a Lean initiative in the 1990s but the effort subsided due to a lack of standardization and some personnel changes. FFI reached out to Polaris MEP, a NIST MEP affiliate, assured by the center's reputation for results and project manager's expertise.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Polaris MEP conducted Lean 101 trainings for FFI, introducing company leadership to specific continuous improvement tools and methods. FFI leaders selected particular staff members to form a continuous improvement management team, and Polaris MEP helped to increase their readiness for production leadership through the training and implementation of Lean Manufacturing tools and concepts. The training covered Visual Workplace Organization, Value Stream Mapping and One Piece Flow Production.

Polaris MEP helped FFI to develop project plans for high-value production areas and projects, with measurable impacts and outcomes. The management team easily communicated the outcomes to stakeholders throughout the organization. The improvements led to investments in new equipment and other areas of the business, and FFI created new positions and retained jobs.

"The Lean effort is going well. Our Polaris MEP project manager, who is now involved in our Lean Steering Committee, has been a great help."

-Adam Larocque, Design Engineer

RESULTS



Added/retained **16** jobs



\$300,000 investment in new equipment



\$100,000 investment in other areas of business

CONTACT US



75 Lower College Road
Carlotti Administration Building
- 2nd Floor
Kingston, RI 02881



(401)874-4807



www.polarismep.org

